

Application No.: 10/519655
Docket No.: AD6899USPCT

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REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

In paragraph 1, claims 1-3, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Sumita et al EP 1 114 734 A1 (Sumita). In paragraph 2, claims 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Sumita. In paragraph 3, claims 4-7, 9-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sumita.

Applicants traverse each of these rejections for the reason that the invention is directed to ink-jet printing onto a rigid interlayer sheet through an ink jet printer, where the rigid interlayer sheet is selected from the group consisting of (A) ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymer ionomer sheets or (B) polyvinyl butyral sheets, whereas Sumita is directed ink jet printing onto a polyester film containing an ink jet receptive coating. Sumita does not disclose anything relative to sheets of the type used in the claimed invention.

Sumita is directed to an ink jet receptive layer coated onto a polyester film. It does not disclose ink-jet printing onto a rigid interlayer sheet through an ink jet printer, where the rigid interlayer sheet is selected from the group consisting of (A) ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymer ionomer sheets or (B) polyvinyl butyral sheets. None of the portions of Sumita referred to in the action teach or suggest (A) ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymer ionomer sheets or (B) polyvinyl butyral sheets. Consequently, withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The amendments to the specification and claims are supported as follows:

The first paragraph on page 2 is amended to correct a patent number. This amendment corrects an obvious error. WO 02/18154A1 (previously submitted) is directed to digital printing on interlayers, whereas WO 02/17154A1 is directed to Migration Assistance.

The second full paragraph at page 2 of the application is amended to correct a clerical error. It appears that the font was changed from symbol to Arial prior to the filing of the patent application, which changed the micron symbol to a box.

The Summary of the Invention is amended to include the subject matter of the original claims. At page 3, between the first and second paragraphs, the subject matter of original claims 2-7 is inserted. At page 3, between the second and third paragraphs, the subject matter of original claims 21-22 is inserted. At page 3, after the third paragraph, the subject matter of original claims 9-17 is inserted.

Claim 1 is amended to specify that the rigid interlayer sheet is selected from the group consisting of (A) ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymer ionomer sheets or (B) polyvinyl

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butyral sheets comprising plasticizer in an amount of less than 30 parts per hundred parts based on the weight of the rigid interlayer sheet. Claim 1 is further amended to recite the thickness of about 0.025 mm to about 0.45 mm as supported at page 6, line 15. Claim 1 is also amended to include lettering and numbering so that the claim is easier to read. In addition, applicants have made a number of changes for consistency in language to simplify reading the claim.

Given the amendment to claim 1, Claim 2 is amended to focus on the polyvinyl butyral sheet embodiment.

Claims 3-6 are amended so that their language is consistent with claim 1 and to simplify reading the claims.

Claim 8 is amended to recite the thickness of about 0.025 mm to about 0.45 mm as supported at page 6, line 15. In addition, claim 8 is amended for consistency in language to simplify reading the claim.

Claims 11-14 are amended to replace the acronyms, and claim 11 is amended to include a smaller Markush group and add the word "and."

Claim 17 is amended so that it is consistent with claim 8 and to use the term "glass lites" as supported at page 1, line 9, and page 4, line 30.

Claims 18 and 19 are cancelled.

Claim 20 contained virtually the same language as claim 1, so it has been amended so that it is a product-by-process claim that depends on claim 1.

Claim 21 is amended so that it is consistent with amended claim 20.

Claim 22 is amended so that it is a process claim depending on claim 1 and to recite the subject matter of original claim 21. Please note that claim 22 recites a test for determining product performance, and not a required process step.

New dependent claim 23 specifies that the ink-jet printing the image is carried out using pigmented ink. This recitation is supported in original claim 8 and pigmented ink is used in the examples.

New claim 24 specifies that sheets of transparent materials of Claim 8 are glass lites. The term "glass lites" is supported at page 1, line 9, and page 4, line 30.

New independent claim 25 is based upon claim 1 and focuses on the situation where a printed ionomer interlayer sheet is laminated to two glass lites. The term "glass lites" is supported at page 1, line 9, and page 4, line 30.

Claim 26 is based upon claim 21.

New independent claim 27 is based upon claim 1 and focuses on the situation where a printed PVB interlayer sheet is laminated to two glass lites. The term "glass lites" is supported at page 1, line 9, and page 4, line 30.

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New independent claim 28 is based upon claim 1 and focuses on the situation where a printed ionomer interlayer sheet is laminated with at least one additional ionomer sheet between two glass lites. The term "glass lites" is supported at page 1, line 9, and page 4, line 30. Use of multiple sheets is supported in the paragraph bridging pages 5-6 of the application and original claim 11. Please note, in particular, that the sentence bridging pages 5-6 refers to use of an ionomer of an ethylene/methylacrylic acid copolymer sheet.

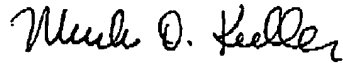
Entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested. Should any matters remain unresolved by this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 16, 2007